



March 23, 2015

## Spring Conference Update

We look forward to seeing you at the Spring Conference April 7-8th in Helena. Please see the [final agenda](#). The cutoff for booking your hotel in the state designated block of rooms at the Wingate was March 15, 2015. If you have not yet sent your [registration form](#) to Mark Squires, please do so no later than Friday, March 27th. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the state office at (800) 433-4298.

In an effort to save paper, we will be posting the power points and other presentation materials in the newsletter on March 30, 2015. If you would like to print them out to follow along and take notes, please do so.

## Order Forms

It is time once again to order booklets, forms, brochures and posters. Download the [new order form](#) and please fill it out completely and return it to [Mark Squires](#) no later than April 10.

## Time Studies start April 1<sup>st</sup>

This is not an April fool's Day Joke; April is a WIC **time study month**. Please record all WIC time spent beginning with the first day in April that you work and continue until the last day worked for the month. Please, **do not wait until the end of the month** to try and recall what happened that first Thursday of the month.... I will be checking throughout the month to see who is not recording their time – this is important! If you have any problems, please call the HelpDesk at 444-2740 or e-mail to: [blahr@mt.gov](mailto:blahr@mt.gov)

## Three Webinar Opportunities for CEUs

USBC announced two free webinar recordings that are now available from conference speaker Tom Wolff. [Maximizing Community Stakeholders' Engagement](#) (developed for CityMatch for Maternal Child Health programs) covers the rationale for engaging those individuals most affected by the issues in your work plus a step-by-step method for successful recruitment and retention. [Coalition Building and Collaborative Solutions](#) (developed for the Society for Research and Action) includes material that Dr. Wolff employs in a typical coalition building workshop. Watch both webinars for 1.25 WIC CEUS. Remember to submit the [appropriate form](#).

*Hit the Mark, Putting VENA into Action* is sponsored by USDA and is another in a series of webinars on Value Enhanced Nutrition Assessment in WIC. It will be held April 29, 2015, 12 noon to 1:00pm. Log-in information will be released at a later date. It will be eligible for 1 WIC CEU.

And the third item is an article entitled *Medication-Assisted Treatment for Pregnant Women: A Systematic Review of the Evidence and Implications for Social Work Practice*. This is a meta-analysis of prior published research about the use of two different medications for treatment. WIC CEUs are 1.5 for this article. [Learn more](#).

## National WIC Association Conference

The State Office would like to offer funding for one local agency staff member to attend this year's [National WIC Association Meeting](#) in Los Angeles, CA from May 16-20, 2015! Check out the [agenda](#).

We are asking that anyone interested send a brief explanation of why they would like to go and how they would use the information in their role at the local level. The state office will reimburse for hotel, meals and transportation (state rates), however the local agency staff time would need to be covered at the local level. Appropriate approvals for travel via your local agency policy would also be the responsibility of the person applying.

Please send in your statement to Kate Girard ([kgirard@mt.gov](mailto:kgirard@mt.gov)) by Thursday, April 2, 2015. The "winner" will be announced at the WIC conference April 7-8, 2015.

## Breastfeeding Learning Collaborative Registration and Hotel Information

The website for registration should be available March 24, 2015, via [www.umt.edu/sell/csp/blc](http://www.umt.edu/sell/csp/blc). If you are attending as WIC staff, please designate this at the registration site. If you set up an account at the last Collaborative, please continue to use it for this registration. Non-WIC staff may attend. There is a \$100 registration fee for others.

While the Collaborative will be held at the Best Western Gran Tree, our block of sleeping rooms is at the Holiday Inn next door. Rooms are \$125 for single or double plus tax for Monday and Tuesday night. The block of rooms will be held until the cutoff of June 8, 2015 or is full, whichever comes first. Please reference the WIC Block or the Montana WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program Block. The phone number is 406-587-4561.

The most recent [agenda](#) is available for review.

## World Breastfeeding Week Theme, from WABA

The World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action has announced the theme for World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) 2015: [Breastfeeding and Work: Let's Make It Work!](#). The focus on working women and breastfeeding revisits the 1993 WBW campaign on the Mother-Friendly Workplace Initiative in a renewed effort to make workplaces supportive of lactating mothers. Make your plans to celebrate WBW August 1-7, 2015!

## Nutrition and Health News

### Dietary Recommendations Update, from AHA

The American Heart Association has published updated [Dietary Recommendations for Healthy Children](#), including breastfeeding as ideal nutrition to support optimal growth and development for the first 4-6 months of life, and encouraging maintained breastfeeding for the first 12 months of life.

### Community Health Status Indicators, from CDC

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has launched the redesigned [Community Health Status Indicators \(CHSI\)](#) 2015 web application, featuring public health profiles for all counties in the United States. Each profile includes key indicators of health outcomes, which describe the population health status of a county and factors that have the potential to influence health outcomes, such as health care access and quality, health behaviors, social factors, and the physical environment. All indicators are benchmarked against those of peer

counties, the median of all U.S. counties, and Healthy People 2020 targets. Check out your Montana county and other nearby or in which your WIC Program has satellite clinics.

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